

We claim:

1. A method of triggering handwriting recognition, the method comprising:
determining that a pen has moved up from an inking position to a non-inking position;
determining that the pen has moved from inside a handwriting-recognition task area to outside of the handwriting-recognition task area; and

triggering handwriting recognition for handwriting entered in the handwriting-recognition task area based upon determining that the pen has moved both up from the inking position into the non-inking position and from inside to outside of the handwriting-recognition task area.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining that the pen has moved from inside to outside of the handwriting-recognition task area further comprises:

tracking a location of the pen while the pen is in the non-inking position and is separated from a writing surface by a distance that is greater than zero and less than or equal to a maximum trackable distance.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
inhibiting handwriting-recognition triggering when the pen is in the inking position.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
triggering handwriting recognition if the pen remains in a non-inking position for longer than a handwriting-recognition-trigger timeout duration.

5. A system that triggers handwriting recognition, the system comprising:
a pen-down event handler that sets an inking flag to indicate that inking has started in a handwriting-recognition task area upon a pen-down event occurring in a core task area of the handwriting-recognition task area;

a pen-up event handler that clears the inking flag to indicate that inking is not in progress upon occurrence of a pen-up event; and

a pen-movement event handler that, while the inking flag is cleared and upon a pen-movement event occurring, triggers handwriting recognition upon determining that a pen has moved outside of the handwriting-recognition task area.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the pen-movement-event handler does not trigger handwriting recognition when handwriting is not present in the handwriting-recognition task area.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the pen-up event handler activates a handwriting-recognition-timeout period that, upon elapsing, triggers handwriting recognition.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the pen-down event handler inhibits triggering of handwriting recognition while inking is in progress in the handwriting-recognition task area.

9. A system that triggers handwriting recognition, the system comprising:
a pen-down event handler that sets an inking flag to indicate that inking has started in a handwriting-recognition task area upon a pen-down event occurring in a core task area of the handwriting-recognition task area; and

a pen-up event handler that, upon an occurrence of a pen-up event, clears the inking flag to indicate that inking is not in progress and that, while the inking flag is cleared, triggers handwriting recognition upon determining that the pen is up and has moved outside of the handwriting-recognition task area.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the pen-up event handler does not trigger handwriting recognition when handwriting is not present in the handwriting-recognition task area.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the pen-up event handler activates a handwriting-recognition-timeout period that, upon elapsing, triggers handwriting recognition.

12. A computer system that accepts handwritten input, the system comprising:
a pointing device;
a writing surface that tracks a location of the pointing device while the pointing device is less than or equal to a maximum-trackable distance away from the writing surface;
a handwriting-recognition-trigger module that receives pointing-device-location data and triggers handwriting recognition when the received pointing-device-location data indicates that the pointing device has gone from inside to outside of a handwriting task area and has transitioned from an inking orientation writing surface to a non-inking orientation.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein:
the pointing device is selected from the group consisting of: a pen, a mouse, and a trackball; and
the writing surface is a writing surface of a digitizer.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein:
the digitizer detects when the pen is farther away from the digitizer than the maximum-trackable distance; and
the handwriting-recognition-trigger module triggers handwriting recognition upon receiving an indication that the digitizer has detected that the pen is farther away from the digitizer than the maximum-trackable distance.

15. A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for triggering handwriting-recognition by performing steps comprising:
determining that a pen is down in an inking state;
determining that the pen is located within a first handwriting-recognition task area;

determining that the pen has moved up thereby transitioning from the inking state to a non-inking state; and

while the pen is up in the non-inking state, triggering handwriting recognition for handwriting entered in the first task area upon determining that the pen has moved out of the first task area.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 containing further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

not triggering handwriting recognition when handwriting is not present in the first handwriting-recognition task area.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 containing further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

upon determining that the pen has transitioned to the non-inking state, activating a handwriting-recognition-timeout period that, upon elapsing, triggers handwriting recognition.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 containing further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

upon determining that the pen is down in an inking state, inhibiting triggering of handwriting recognition for the first handwriting recognition area while the pen remains in the inking state.

19. A computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for triggering handwriting-recognition by performing steps comprising:

determining that a pen is down in an inking state;

determining that the pen is located within a first handwriting-recognition task area;

determining that the pen has moved out of the first task area; and

after the pen has moved out of the first task area, triggering handwriting recognition for handwriting entered in the first task area upon determining that the pen has moved up from the inking state into a non-inking state.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 containing further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

not triggering handwriting recognition when handwriting is not present in the first handwriting-recognition task area.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 containing further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

upon determining that the pen has transitioned to the non-inking state, activating a handwriting-recognition-timeout period that, upon elapsing, triggers handwriting recognition.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 containing further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

upon determining that the pen is down in an inking state, inhibiting triggering of handwriting recognition for the first handwriting recognition area while the pen remains in the inking state.